



Why the Nickels and Dimes?

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“Safety, safety, safety” What a bunch of garbage! You guys in the safety business really love to nickel and dime a guy to death. Do this, do that! Don’t do this, don’t do that! When are you going to get your act together?”

These thoughts run through everyone’s mind once in a while. I’m in the safety business, and they run through mine, for good reason: Most people are ignorant! That is to say, we simply don’t know the safety requirements.

Even safety experts can appear ignorant. For instance, 40 years ago no one knew the hazards posed by asbestos. What we have since learned about asbestos has made us more aware of the risks involved working with it. But what about the unknown hazards lurking around our offices and homes?

What do we do? We can’t foresee the future. We can’t look at something and intuitively sense it

is dangerous. Like I said, we are ignorant, and we know it.

So, we nickel and dime you to death, trying to make sure the hazards and procedures we know to be harmful don’t “leap out and bite you.”

We do know losing a life is a terrible waste. Even injury or equipment damage is a waste. As you read this, you assume a long and enjoyable life lies before you. To shut the door on that life, or to close one of many roads you can travel, would be a shame. If you die from anything other than old age, it probably will be because someone did something wrong—more than likely that someone will be you. Always protect yourself because you are too valuable to waste. Everything you do touches on safety. ☺

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